

# The American Observer

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*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 2

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1941

## U. S. Navy Enlarged By Many New Ships

More Than 200 New Craft Added  
and Twice as Many Begun  
Since January First

### NAVY FACES HEAVY TASKS

From Iceland to the South Pacific  
Our Expanding Fleets Patrol a Vast  
Area of Two Oceans

The fact that an American destroyer, the *Greer*, was recently attacked by a submarine in the North Atlantic created considerable excitement along the east coast of the United States. At the time of the assault the *Greer* was some 150 miles west of Iceland, where American forces are now stationed. Since the attack took place in the western, or American part of the ocean, President Roosevelt ordered the Navy to "eliminate the marauder." Thus it seemed that to the shots already exchanged between American and German naval craft, more might be added.

Back in the United States, in the meantime, there has been other news concerning the Navy. Not long ago the new battleship *South Dakota* slid down the shipyard ways and plunged into the water. Hardly had the waves subsided when workmen were busily laying the keel of a new cruiser where the battleship had rested a few minutes before.

### Our Growing Navy

This is a small incident, but there have been many like it, and it shows that our naval-building program is going forward at high speed. Just last week it was announced in Washington that 213 new vessels had been added to the Navy since January 1, and that keels had been laid for 436 more during the same period.

To the American people this is comforting news. We know that our Army is not yet what it should be, and the Air Force is small, but the Navy—our first line of defense—is a good one. And it is growing. Far out in two oceans it is maintaining a sleepless vigil, its men and guns on the alert to see that no one threatens the security of the United States.

Our Navy, like any other navy, is composed chiefly of three things—men, ships, and bases. It is not quite as simple as all that, of course. Actually the Navy is a very complex organization. In addition to the men and ships so often seen in the news-reels are very large establishments on shore. There are, in fact, about 200,000 civilian employees of the Navy—nearly as many as there are enlisted men. Also included in our naval organization are hidden oil tanks in the West, factories, machine shops, mills, training schools, barracks, hospitals, airfields, merchant ships, to mention only a few.

The most important part of the Navy, of course, is the fleet—or,  
(Concluded on page 6)



On the deck of the Queen of the Seas — the U.S.S. North Carolina

## The Undertow

By Walter E. Myer

We all admire a person of marked ability and outstanding achievement, a person who rises above the common level and who carves for himself a position of real leadership. We look upon such a person with envy or admiration, but we are likely not to follow his example. Too frequently we accept the standards of unsuccessful people with whom we happen to be associated. We want to do a little better than the fellow at our elbow does but not necessarily much better. A runner is likely not to make the best record of which he is capable unless a competitor is at his heels. A student of great ability may be satisfied with very ordinary work if it is a little better than that done by his dull or unambitious classmates. A student with high ideals may compromise with his conscience if he is in the company of others whose ideals are not so high. For example, he may cheat in examinations if other members of the class are doing so.

Mediocrity, dullness, lack of vision or strongly propelling purpose, these qualities are unattractive when you look them in the face. But they do attract. We are ordinarily unconscious of their drawing power but it is there. It operates like an ever-present undertow, which pulls many of the stronger and more promising individuals below the surface and prevents their winning the success for which nature fitted them. It also stands in the way of social, civic, and moral progress.

Fortunately, however, there are persons who cannot be held down by the undertow. These are the real leaders. There is an individual here and there who does not go along with the herd. He does not let dullards set his standards. He is not content to do a little better than the person at his side if that person is slow or unambitious or insensitive. He decides what he can do, fixes his attention upon distant goals, and bends his energies toward the realization of his purposes. He is satisfied with nothing less than the best he can do. If those about him sink to low levels, he towers the higher above that level. If those about him are dishonest in their practices, he still holds rigidly to his standards of honor. The limits of his achievement are set, not by sluggish or poorly endowed companions, but by the farthest reaches of his own powers.

Such persons are the ones most likely to realize their best possibilities. They are the ones who help to build higher standards. They improve the life of the home. They help the schools to do better work. They make their communities better. They help to lift business practices to higher planes. They are the real builders of a better civilization. They do not boast of their superiority but they feel it. They are proud without being haughty, honorable without being self-righteous or priggish. In these young men and women who are pace setters rather than slavish followers lies the best hope of individual happiness, social welfare, and national strength.

## Can Nazi Drive For Oil Be Checkmated?

Oil Fields of Russia and Near  
East Still Beyond Reach  
of German Armies

### WINTER CAMPAIGN LIKELY

Hitler Cannot Wage War Indefinitely  
Without New and Larger Supplies  
of Oil for War Needs

With the Nazi war machine still unable to make decisive gains in Russia last week, it was apparent to all that the eastern campaign will not end before winter, as Hitler had hoped. The unexpected resistance of the Red Army, its ability to hold back the Nazis, even to stage successful counterattacks at various points along the 1,800-mile front, make it fairly certain that the Soviets cannot be subdued before spring, if by that time.

If Hitler's armies are bogged down on the northern fronts when the snows start flying, it is possible that he may hurl the full weight of his military machine southward, where the weather will be more favorable, and where the prizes to be won are even more considerable than in the north.

### Vast Resources

In the southern part of Russia and extending into the Near East are resources of such greatness as to make Hitler risk almost everything to obtain them. Beginning with the Soviet Ukraine, where the Nazis have already made substantial gains, and extending arc-shaped through the Caucasus Mountains and into Iran is one of the most highly prized regions of all Europe. (See map on page 7).

It was to forestall such an attack by the Nazis that the English and Russians recently sent their armies into the adjacent country of Iran. They have undertaken to lock one door through which Hitler might move in attacking southern Russia. It was this same reason that prompted England some time ago to keep both Iraq and Syria firmly under her control. And it is for the same reason that both the Nazis and the Allies are exerting such strong diplomatic pressure upon Turkey.

One of the main reasons for Hitler's attack upon the Soviet Union in June was to obtain the tremendous supplies of materials which the Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Iran produce. And he is not likely to be deterred in this objective, no matter what happens in the north of Russia. One should, therefore, watch these regions closely during the months ahead.

Let us look at each of these vital areas, examine its products, and then turn to the military problems involved.

(1) The Ukraine. The Soviet Ukraine is one of the largest and most important of the republics of the U. S. S. R. In 1939, before the outbreak of war, the Ukraine con-  
(Concluded on page 7)



# Analyze Yourself!

Second of a Series of Tests by Which You May Determine Your Rating in Civic Efficiency, Personality, and Character

LAST week we suggested a number of questions for your consideration. We recommended that you ask yourself these questions in order to analyze your progress along certain lines. The questions dealt chiefly with reading, conversation, and discussion. This week we continue the self-analysis program with questions dealing with social qualities; particularly appearance, and



Do you have respect for other people's time?

skill in getting along with people.

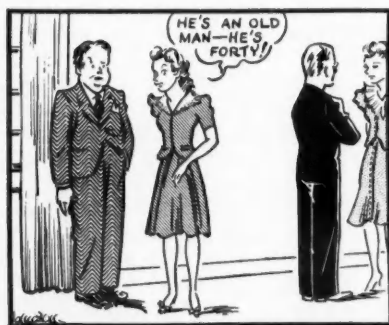
## 1. Do you dress neatly?

It is not at all necessary that one dress expensively in order to make a good impression. It is usually better if he does not. But even though one wears clothing of an inexpensive variety, he may be neat, and that is essential. If one goes to an employer slovenly attired, he is not likely to get a job.

## 2. Do you have a pleasing voice?

First impressions depend largely upon the effect of the voice and these impressions may be lasting. Many voices are nasal or rasping, too loud or too weak, or unpleasant in other respects. People frequently think of this as a defect which cannot be remedied. But it can. There are a number of good books on voice cultivation. One of the best is *Your Speaking Voice*, by Harrison M. Karr (Glendale, California: Griffin-Patterson Company. \$2.25).

## 3. Do you have a large enough vocabulary so that, without resort



Are you lacking in tact?

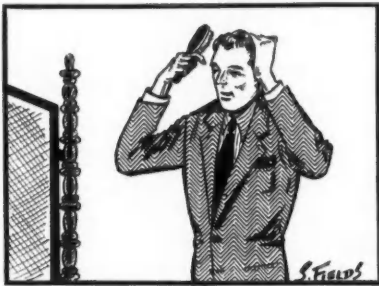
to slang, you find yourself able to express ideas and feelings with clearness, definiteness, and precision?

Many people speak fumblingly because they do not have on the tips of their tongues the right words to express their ideas and emotions. Words are the symbols of thought, and if one has few at his command, he can express only very simple ideas. Read widely with a dictionary on your desk, learning the meaning of every unfamiliar word. That is the best rule for the building of a vocabulary. Helpful suggestions may be found in these books: *Command of Words*, by Samuel Stephen-

son Smith (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company. \$2.50); *Vocabulary Building*, by J. M. Steadman (Atlanta: Turner E. Smith & Company. \$1.20); *Personal Power Through Speech*, by Sarett and Foster (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company. \$3.25).

## 4. Are you well acquainted with the rules of social usage or of good form and do you abide by these rules?

One who does not know what "the correct thing" is, in various situations of social life, is at a distinct disadvantage. He is unsure of himself; is likely to be shy and backward; does not put his best foot forward. It is relatively easy to become familiar with the rules of social usage. Among the books which may prove helpful are: *Behave Yourself!* by Betty Allen and Mitchell Pirie Briggs (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$1.25); *The Correct Thing*, by J. M. Steadman (Atlanta: Turner E. Smith & Company. \$1.50); *Your Best Foot Forward*, by Dorothy C. Stratton and Helen B. Schleman (New York:



Are you well groomed?

Whittlesey House. \$2.00); *Living with Others*, by Laurence B. Goodrich (New York: American Book Company. \$1.00).

## 5. Are you tactful?

In order to be tactful, you must be mentally alert. You must be able quickly to see how your words may affect listeners. You must learn to avoid subjects which are disagreeable to the persons with whom you talk. This is not done easily. The tactful person is sensitive to other people's feelings. He must be intelligent; he must have judgment; he must be thoughtful and considerate.

## 6. Are you loyal to your friends?

This does not mean that you must approve everything your friends do. You may be critical of them, just as you are critical of yourself. But loyalty requires that you give a friend the benefit of the doubt when a problem comes up, just as you would yourself. Don't expect perfection of him. Don't desert him because of some one misstep. Judge him as you would like to be judged, by his character and personality as they are manifested day in and day out—not by his least judicious word or act.

## 7. Are you free from jealousy?

Jealousy is one of the most dangerous destroyers of happiness and of friendship.

## 8. Do you contribute much to the pleasure, the satisfaction, and the enjoyment of your relatives?

That is the acid test. If you are not a "good fellow" about the home, there is little chance that you will prove helpful in larger circles.



From a scene in "Citizen Kane"

## "Citizen Kane"

"CITIZEN KANE" has been widely discussed because of the supposed parallel between the lives of the central figure, Charles Foster Kane, and William Randolph Hearst. The parallel is indeed marked at a number of points, but it is by no means complete and at any rate that is not the most interesting feature of the film. One who sees the movie may as well forget Hearst and watch the unfolding drama of the highly successful yet tragically unsatisfying life of Mr. Kane.

The story is unusual in that it begins with the death of Kane in his magnificent palace. Then it turns back to his childhood; shows him taken from his poor parents to the city. He comes into possession of a great fortune, buys a string of newspapers, becomes a powerful figure in politics.

Kane is interested in the sensational and promotes "yellow journalism" through his papers. He attacks abuses of big business, poses as a

friend of the common man, but is not interested in people in the concrete. Later in life he fails the classes he pretends to support.

He lacks loyalty in personal relationships; lacks affection for family; cares only for himself, and is unsatisfied even though he acquires wealth and power such as few men ever have known.

Approaching death finds Kane longing for something he does not possess and the drama is concerned largely with the attempt of the press to find out what was on his mind at the last. This is sought as a clue to his character, and is revealed only at the final moment of the play.

The acting is good, especially that of Orson Welles, who plays the part of Kane. The photography is excellent. The idea behind the drama is good, but somehow it lacks power. One watches it with a sense of its unreality. This is an interesting movie, however; considerably above the average.

## American School of the Air

TODAY, more than ever before, students may keep abreast of public problems through radio broadcasts brought into the social studies classroom. An outstanding program for this purpose is "This Living World," to be presented every Friday during the school year, beginning October 9, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

"This Living World" is always broadcast from the auditorium stage of a large high school in the vicinity of New York. The program usually begins with a brief statement of the day's problem by a well-known radio commentator, who explains how the question applies to our own times. Then, as his voice fades away,

skilled radio actors dramatize outstanding points.

A recent program, for example, discussed the government's responsibility in providing for the health, welfare, and safety of factory workers. The first dramatic scene took the listeners back a hundred years into an English weaving mill, where a member of Parliament was investigating the health and working conditions of laboring men and women.

In the last third of every broadcast, a panel of students steps up to the microphone. They discuss questions the program has raised and add their own personal views.

Students may find out more about "This Living World" by writing to their local Columbia stations. As a kind of "listeners' guide," a few of this year's broadcasts are listed.

TIME OF BROADCAST ON FRIDAY  
Eastern Time Zone ..... 9:15-9:45 A.M.  
Central Time Zone ..... 2:30-2:55 P.M.  
Mountain Time Zone ..... 9:30-10:00 A.M.  
Pacific Time Zone ..... 1:30-2:00 P.M.

### OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS

#### I. Issues in a Democracy

October 10: Democracy Today  
17: Preparing for Defense  
24: Training for Jobs  
November 7: Health  
December 5: Propaganda  
19: The Worker after the Defense Program

#### II. Domestic Issues

January 16: Refugees  
23: Crime  
February 20: Pan Americanism  
April 10: The Americas and the Far East  
24: The World to Come



A class listens to the American School of the Air



# Seeing South America...

II

It was not a very profitable day that we spent in the Panama Canal Zone. I expected to see the Canal, but got only one brief glimpse of it as we were landing at Balboa. The Canal Zone is heavily guarded and one's movements are closely watched and restricted. That is why it is hard to see the Canal or anything else which is interesting. The heat also discouraged attempts to uncover anything of interest. The thermometer registered 110° the day we were there, but it was so humid and sultry that it seemed much hotter than that.

We left Balboa at two o'clock in the afternoon. For a while, we flew along the Pacific Coast. Then we were over the land again and beneath us were the jungles of northern Colombia.

This jungle is so dense that it serves as a barrier to travel by land from North to South America. When people have talked of a Pan-American highway from the United States through Central America, Panama, and then on through South America, they have always assumed that there would have to be a gap in northern Colombia because of the impenetrable jungles. A

year or so ago, however, a Carolina high school teacher made his way on foot through the jungle and since then it is thought possible that a highway may be built through it.

As soon as we had crossed the jungle region, we flew down a broad valley between ridges of the Andes Mountains, and I have seldom seen from the air a more beautiful countryside. Below us were green fields and pastures dotted with trees and farmyards. On either side at some distance were the mountain ridges.

At five o'clock, three hours from the time we left the Canal Zone, we landed at Cali, Colombia, a city of about 100,000 population. We had a friendly reception on this, our first stop in South America. The first thing we saw in getting out of the plane was a long table at which orange juice was being served to passengers.

In front of the airport was another long table presided over by the im-

migration and customs officials. In each of the countries we visited, we were obliged to show our passports and health certificates and open our bags for inspection. This, however, took only a few minutes. The examinations were usually merely a matter of form and the officials paid little attention to our baggage.

Our hotel in Cali was across a narrow street from a movie theater. As I sat in my room that evening I could hear, throughout the performance, the voice of Don Ameche, for the film was "Down Argentine Way."

At the conclusion of the movie, I heard another familiar voice, that of President Roosevelt. It was a speech which he had made on the radio the week before—the 27th of May Fireside Chat in which he had proclaimed a national emergency and called for the defeat of the Nazis. His talk would be broadcast for a while to the theater crowd, then an interpreter would tell in Spanish what he had said.

When the speech was finished, there was an uproar of approval. The people in the theater not only cheered, but stamped their feet, whistled and yelled. I have never seen such a demonstration for the President in an American movie.

## Friendly Toward U. S.

I was told the next day by a taxi driver that the common people of Colombia are very enthusiastic admirers of President Roosevelt. He said that they were much excited at the time of the election in the United States last November, and when they found that President Roosevelt had been reelected, they stopped work, danced, and celebrated for quite a time.

Other inquiries which I made led me to believe that the overwhelming majority of people in Colombia are anti-German and feel very friendly toward England and the United States.

This is not true, of course, of all the people. There are a good many German businessmen in Colombia who have their friends. Many merchants in Colombia have been buying German goods and would like to resume that trade. Some of these merchants would like to see a German victory.

Also, certain of the officers in the Army are pro-Nazi and there are

Colombians who still remember that the United States took Panama from Colombia back in the days of Theodore Roosevelt. Several American businessmen with whom I talked in Cali and Bogota are much impressed by the number of pro-Germans in Colombia, but there is every indication that most of the people of that country want to go along with the United States.

One of our most interesting experiences in Colombia was driving out from Cali into the farming section. The country is very picturesque. We drove past a great deal of grazing land. The pastures are dotted by clumps of trees which give them a very pleasing appearance.

In parts of Colombia the land is divided into small farms as it is in the United States, but near Cali there are very large estates. The owners live in the cities and the land is tended by farm laborers who live in little thatched cottages. In most cases a number of these cottages will be grouped together in small villages and the families living in them tend the farms of the estate.

The principal crop in this region is coffee. The Colombians say it is a superior kind, better than that which is grown in Brazil. The coffee is grown on a shrub or small tree and it thrives only in the shade. The coffee is raised along with bananas and bamboo trees. Bamboo and bananas furnish the shade and the plantation is in the nature of a junglelike thicket.

## Plantation Life

These plantations are tended by Negro families who live in little houses at the edge of the coffee fields. The walls of the houses are made of bamboo with the cracks filled in with mud. The roofs are thatched. Usually there are two rooms, a living room and a bedroom. The one bedroom serves the family, even though there may be half a dozen children or more. In nearly every case, there is, in addition, a lean-to kitchen which looks as though it may fall in at any time.

The farmer owns no land. He is a hired laborer, working for the owner of the estate. His wage is about 60 cents a day, but in addition he has a little plot of ground upon which to raise vegetables and perhaps a few pigs. On this little plot, he raises most of the food he eats; rice, tomatoes, and potatoes, and of course he has plenty of bananas.

Though wages paid to workers on the large estates seem by our standards to be very low, the farm families appear to have most of the absolute necessities of life. They seem to have enough to eat; fuel can be supplied for nothing on the plantation, and the weather is warm enough so that the heating of the houses is not a problem. Clothing costs are low.

WALTER E. MYER



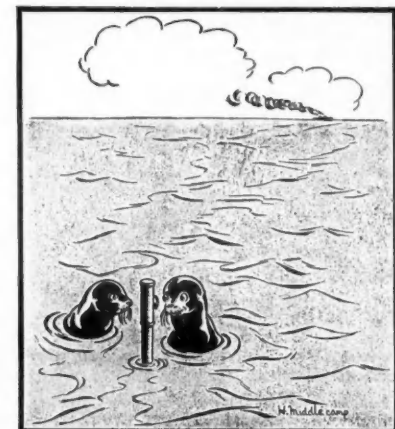
The business street of Cartagena, Colombia

## ♦ SMILES ♦

Customer: "Mrs. Jackson has a most magnetic personality, hasn't she?"  
Grocer: "Yes, everything she carries out of here is charged."—CLASSMATE

"Why are you wearing spectacles, old man?"  
"Well, through crossword puzzles I've contracted an optical defect. One eye travels vertically and the other horizontally."—LOOKOUT

"I don't need none!" said the lady of the house before the agent had opened his mouth.  
"How do you know?" he returned.  
"I might be selling grammars."—SELECTED



"Seems friendly enough — he keeps waving."

MIDDLECAMP IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

Corporal: "That new recruit used to be a clerk."  
Sergeant: "How do you know?"  
Corporal: "Every time he stands at ease he tries to put his rifle behind his ear."—CLASSMATE

Medieval Mother: "Hast Sir Gordon yet asked thee for thy hand?"  
Daughter: "Not yet, mother, but the Knight is young."—COSGROVE'S MAGAZINE

The guide had been answering the tourist's questions for half an hour, and his patience was exhausted.  
"How were the caves formed?" she asked.

"I wasn't alive then, madam," he replied, "but the story goes that a Scotsman dropped a sixpence down a rabbit hole."—TID-BITS

Ann: "Surely you're not going to let that redhead steal your boy friend?"  
Sue: "Never! I'll dye first!"—CAPPER'S WEEKLY



A village in Colombia near the border of Panama



# The Week at Home

## Sea War?

What courses of action are likely to result from the exchange of shots between the United States destroyer *Greer* and a German submarine in the North Atlantic? Will the incident lead to an undeclared sea war? Or will Germany withdraw its operations from that part of the Atlantic which lies between the United States and Iceland—the area in which the American Navy, under orders of the President, is playing an increasingly important role?

From the *Greer* incident, the Nazi high command has learned that U. S. naval forces engaged in the Atlantic patrol will retaliate when provoked. They will not radio to Washington for instructions on such occasions.

The answers to the larger questions raised by the affair will probably be known by the time this paper reaches its readers, for the President planned to deal with the issue in his radio broadcast on September 11.

## Super Board

President Roosevelt has reshuffled the management of the defense program by naming a new super body called the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board. Its chairman is Vice-President Henry Wallace, but the active head is its executive director, Donald Nelson, who has been director



NEW UNIFORM for women in defense as designed by Irene, noted fashion designer. The suit is made of olive-drab wool, with dyed cotton stockings to match.

of purchases in the Office of Production Management.

Other members are Harry Hopkins, William Knudsen, Sidney Hillman, Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of the Navy Knox, and Leon Henderson. The full extent of the new agency's powers is not yet known, except that it is the President's



SPAB is the latest board established by President Roosevelt for the purpose of bringing order and speed to the defense program. The Supply Priorities and Allocations Board is a sort of super planning agency which will try to iron out some of the kinks in the defense program. Standing, left to right, are: Undersecretary of the Navy James Forrestal, representing Secretary Knox; Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson, representing Secretary Stimson; Leon Henderson, price administrator; and Sidney Hillman, associate director of OPM. Seated: Harry Hopkins, lend-lease administrator; William Knudsen, associate director of OPM; Vice-President Henry Wallace, chairman of the board; and Donald Nelson, executive director.

answer to requests for a more centralized authority over the defense program. Rather than select a single individual, he named this board. It does not displace any other defense agency, but becomes the center of defense management.

Another development of major importance is the move to bring more small industries into the defense picture. The President discovered that 56 corporations hold 75 per cent of the Army and Navy contracts for war supplies of all kinds.

Consequently, he set up a new division within the Office of Production Management which will break up some of the large orders into smaller portions.

## Tax Hunt

Congress has been putting the finishing touches on the bill which will raise the federal revenues to the highest level in history. By increasing taxes, the two houses have boosted the amount which the government expects to collect during the coming year by about \$3,500,000,000. The total revenue is thus boosted to \$13,000,000,000.

This amount falls short of the \$21,000,000,000 or more which the government expects to spend during 1942. The difference of eight billion must be obtained by borrowing funds.

The increased taxes are looked upon only as a foretaste of what is yet to come. Defense costs are mounting by the week, and future tax bills will probably be still higher. The *New York Times* looks upon the situation and recalls the words of Thomas Paine, political writer during the American Revolution:

"War involves . . . such a train of unforeseen and unthought-of circumstances that no human wisdom can calculate the end. It has but one thing certain, and that is to increase taxes."

## Black Death

In the year 1665, one out of every seven of the inhabitants of London died of the "Great Plague." One day late this summer a small boy died in Siskiyou County, California, of a rare and unusual disease. Last week, in

the nation's capital, an intensive war against rats was ordered by city health officials.

The clue which ties together these seemingly unrelated facts is a small flea which infests rats, squirrels, rabbits, and other rodents. The boy was the second this year to die of the plague, the same dreaded Black Death which all during the Middle Ages had decimated the population of Europe and the Near East.

This disease is common to all kinds of rodents, and under certain conditions is spread to human beings by the rat flea. Although only about 500 cases of the disease have been reported in the United States in the last 40 years, some concern is felt over this new occurrence, since no effective treatment for it is known.

A conference called by Surgeon General Thomas Parran has requested the government to appropriate a large sum of money for a war on rodents.

## Railway Troubles

Nothing could tie up the defense program more effectively than a general railway strike. Yet the fact that 1,200,000 employees of the nation's railroads have named a day to strike this month has not caused immediate concern. The decision merely set into operation the machinery provided by the Railway Labor Act for

handling disputes between railroads and their employees.

For some time, the National Railway Mediation Board has been trying to bring about an agreement between the unions and the roads. The chief issue is higher wages. The board confesses it has failed to solve the dispute, so the workers have agreed to strike. But they cannot do this until President Roosevelt has acted.

Under the Railway Labor Act, the President has the power, in these circumstances, to name a fact-finding commission of three members. The commission holds hearings, gets the viewpoints of both the railroads and the workers, and then recommends a solution. It has 30 days in which to offer this proposal, and after that another 30 days must pass before the workers can strike.

Neither side is compelled to accept the commission's compromise solution, but usually both the roads and the unions hesitate to arouse public opinion by turning it down.

## Navy Chief

The highest ranking officer in the U. S. Navy today is Admiral Harold R. Stark, who is known in the service as the chief of naval operations.

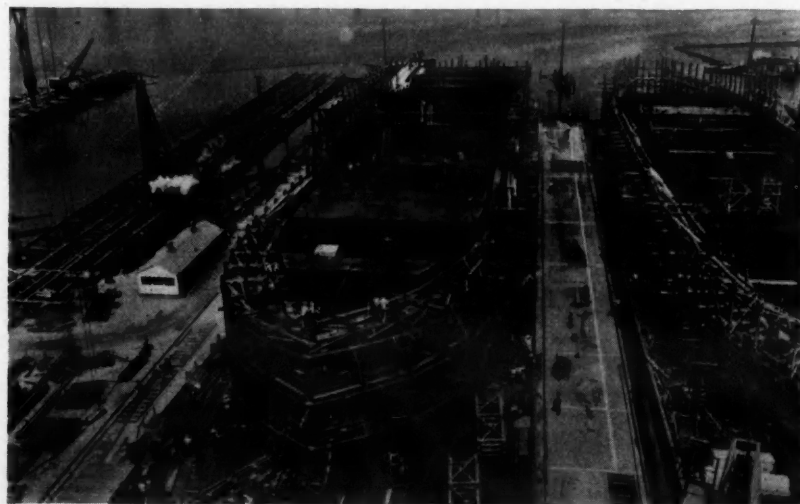


H. R. S.

Admiral Stark

Admiral Stark, with his white hair and glasses, is distinguished in appearance. Born only 61 years ago, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, he attended Annapolis, where he led the choir, and graduated 38 years ago. In later years he served all over the world.

Like other high-ranking officers in our Navy, Admiral Stark is a man to whom naval warfare is an exact science. There are just so many ships, just so much ocean surface, and just so many moves on each side—like a gigantic game of chess. Carefully coordinated teamwork is thus far more important, to his way of thinking, than individual daring. That is the spirit of the U. S. Navy.



AHEAD OF SCHEDULE is this shipyard in Los Angeles, California. The first of 55 freighters being built by the California Shipbuilding Corporation is more than halfway to its launching point, and will slide down the ways on October 1, over two months earlier than originally planned.

### The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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# The Week Abroad

## Eastern Front

As the Soviet campaign winds up its third month, not a single one of European Russia's most important cities is yet in Nazi hands. Moscow itself is still about 150 miles away from the invader's grasp; and the Germans, finding the capital's defense too stubborn to crack, have for the time abandoned efforts to devastate it from the air.

The most bitter fighting of the war is now being waged at the approaches to Leningrad, the Soviet's second largest city. Here, Hitler has massed the best of his troops and equipment in a drive to capture the city before winter sets in. Leningrad is the center of a sizable machine-tool industry.

At the suburban town of Kronstadt is the base of the Red Baltic fleet. Both the fleet and the industrial



FILIPINOS are being given training in air-raid precautions in the face of the dangers which confront the islands. These Filipino mothers and children are being guided by Boy Scouts.

center would be lost to the Russian forces if Leningrad should be successfully stormed.

The rival communiques, however, give different versions of the struggle in this sector. Berlin says that the Red Armies protecting the city are faced with surrender or annihilation. Moscow is equally confident that the Nazis would suffer a horrible slaughter if they should make a direct attack upon the city.

The Russians have sought to ease the pressure upon Leningrad by pushing a large number of small counter-attacks in the central front. In some of these, they have been successful, forcing the Germans back a distance of over 50 miles at some points, near the Estonian frontier.

At the southern end of the 1,800-mile front, the Nazis have failed to make any gains in the past few weeks. Kiev, at the gates of which the Germans claimed to have arrived on July 12, is still in Russian hands. And encircled Odessa is still holding out.

## Mediterranean Rumblings

The Mediterranean war fronts have been relatively quiet this past summer. Save in Syria, where Allied troops recently overcame the Vichy French, there have been no major campaigns. In the blazing deserts along the Egyptian-Libyan border, British and Axis forces have skirmished without result. There have been occasional bombings, and a few naval skirmishes. Otherwise the

Mediterranean has been in the background of the war.

It is possible, however, that this quiet may be misleading. Behind the war fronts the Allies have been very active. After a period of heavy losses last spring, the British have again opened the Mediterranean and are moving long convoys carrying American-made tanks and military equipment from Gibraltar through to Egypt. At the same time, British naval craft and R.A.F. bombers have taken heavy toll among the African-bound troop and supply ships of Italy and Germany.

Far to the south, along the inner fringes of the Sahara, there is also great activity. American-made planes are being flown steadily through central Africa to Egypt. Imperial and Free French forces have been gathering among the oases of southern Libya. In Egypt, the British are believed to have concentrated perhaps a half a million troops, and vast quantities of supplies.

Experienced observers are beginning to believe that the British intend to take advantage of Hitler's preoccupation in Russia to launch a great offensive in North Africa as soon as the deserts have cooled from the summer heat.

## Swiss Army

This year Switzerland has been celebrating its 650th anniversary as a state. Its 4,500,000 people in 22 different cantons form the oldest republic in Europe. On the whole, they have been allowed to live peaceably, but today they are somewhat anxious. Hitler has not yet threatened them, but he controls the lands on all sides and the commercial arteries linking Switzerland with the outside world.

Yet, considering the position they are in, the Swiss are remarkably confident of their ability to defend themselves. A great deal of this confidence is due to the remarkable organization of the Swiss Army, according to an article by Charlotte Muret and Denis de Rougemont in the current issue of *Harpers*.

Switzerland, according to the authors, is the best-armed democracy in the world, with one out of its every seven inhabitants enrolled in the army. Every able-bodied youth, rich or poor, is trained for military service, and each is trained particularly in the defense of his own region. The training is entirely democratic, and

limited to short periods at various times, rather than to two years in a stretch, as it was in France. If war should hit Switzerland tomorrow, its entire army of 600,000 men would be mobilized within three hours.

## Serbia's Chetniks

Last spring, after a blitzkrieg of terrific intensity, Yugoslavia fell before the German army. Straightway the land was torn apart. Croatia, in the north, was made a puppet state. Italy took the Adriatic coast, Hungary a big slice in the northeast, and the German army moved into what was left. The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, as it was called, was no more.

But the Serbs, the dominant race in old Yugoslavia, have not accepted their defeat quietly. A hardy race, skilled in guerrilla warfare by hundreds of years of fighting the Turks, thousands of them took their guns and made for the mountains before the Germans arrived.

The Serb guerrillas, rumored to be 100,000 strong, call themselves Chetniks, which means "Serbian Company," and are now engaged in a hidden war with the Germans, Italians, and all Yugoslavs who have cast their lot with the Axis. Striking down from the mountains by night with the old cry, *Zdravo Srbi!* (long live Serbia), they regularly demolish railways, bridges, munitions dumps, and leave a trail of dead and dying behind. The toll on both sides has been heavy. German reprisals have become steadily more severe, and public hangings have become very common.

Last week, General Milan Neditch, once war minister of Yugoslavia, appealed to his people to stop the civil war, apparently fearing terrible reprisals from the Germans. His call has gone unheeded, however. Fearing that the example of the Chetniks may be followed by the conquered Greeks, Albanians, Czechs, Poles, and other subject races, the German army is now treating all Serbia virtually as if it were a nation at war.

## Japan's Konoye

Japan was a sober and uneasy land last week. With Russia, Britain, and the United States drifting closer together in face of the German threat, she was beginning to feel alone in a hostile world. Even the Japanese premier, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, was



THE SWISS guard their passes and hope to stay out of war. Switzerland, although surrounded by dictatorships, holds fast to its democratic ways.

worried enough to warn his people that Japan faces the gravest emergency in her history.

Prince Konoye has been in a difficult position these past few months. Only 49, he is a young man by Japanese standards. A brilliant student in his youth, the product of one of Japan's oldest families, he is both witty and personable, and yet regarded as one of the shrewdest, best-informed politicians of his country.



Prince Konoye

Last year, with the support of a powerful coalition of officers, titled and wealthy families, he began to reshape the Japanese government on totalitarian lines—abolishing political parties and concentrating all power in a small executive council.

Today, Konoye and his conservative supporters wish to avoid war with the democracies and Russia, and to stabilize matters at home. A powerful clique in the army feels otherwise, however, and is making matters difficult for him.

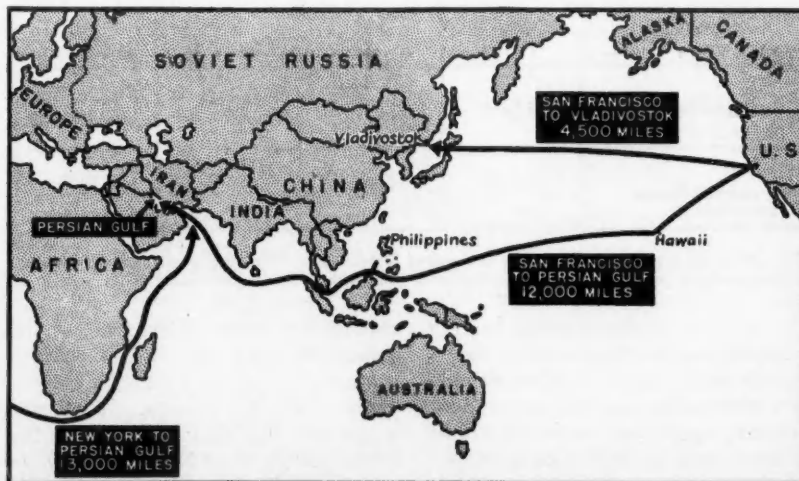
## Port of Vladivostok

It was only 80 years ago that the Russians, seeking a Pacific port, established Vladivostok. As the eastern terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which links Russia and Siberia, it handles not only local traffic in fish, timber, soybeans, tea, and salt, but the heavy exchange of goods between the railroad and Pacific shipping.

There is not much in the appearance of Vladivostok to suggest that it is one of the key cities in the Far East. Battered old ships line its harbor. Behind a row of cranes, warehouses, and railway sheds, the city itself climbs slowly up the slopes of a ring of low hills. It is a gray, dreary, and somewhat depressing city. It looks busy, but not prosperous.

Lying at the tip of a claw-shaped piece of land reaching down the coast from Siberia, Vladivostok occupies a dramatic position. Tokyo is but 742 miles distant by bomber across the Sea of Japan, and the Russians have bombers able to make the round trip.

On the other hand, it is possible for a Japanese army to reach around behind Vladivostok, in Manchukuo, and cut off the port from Siberia, so it is a point of great interest to both Russians and Japanese.



SUPPLY ROUTES TO RUSSIA are being studied by the United States now that it has begun to send aid to the Russians. A few ships have been sent under the nose of Japan to Vladivostok, but the Persian Gulf route may become the most important.



# United States Navy Is Now Second to None

(Concluded from page 1)

more accurately, the fleets. It used to be proper to refer to the "United States Fleet," but last February 1 it was divided into three fleets—the Atlantic, Pacific, and the Asiatic.

The division of these fleets is very unequal. The Asiatic fleet consists of only a few small warships and planes. The Atlantic fleet, until recently, has been a skeleton fleet, but now that American naval craft are patrolling the North Atlantic, it has grown larger. Its exact size is a strict secret. These two fleets, together with the Pacific fleet, are under the command of Admiral Stark, the chief of naval operations, whose headquarters are in Washington.

When Americans speak of "the fleet" today, they usually mean the Pacific fleet, which contains the great bulk of our Navy. This fleet, which is at present located in and around Hawaii, contains 12 of our 17 battleships, four of our seven aircraft carriers, and a very large number of small craft. It is this section of the U. S. Navy which is designed for heavy duty and for open battle with a powerful enemy. In battle formation, this great fleet would string out in a line from 80 to 100 miles long.

## Different Types

The ships which make up the fleet are many and varied. Everyone has seen pictures of them, and everyone knows roughly the differences in size of battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and the small torpedo boats. There is a great difference in cost, too. A battleship today costs \$71,000,000 or more; an aircraft carrier, \$32,000,000; a cruiser about \$24,000,000; a destroyer, \$8,000,000, and a submarine a little less. All these types are needed in the fleet. Each has a duty to perform which no other ship can do as well.

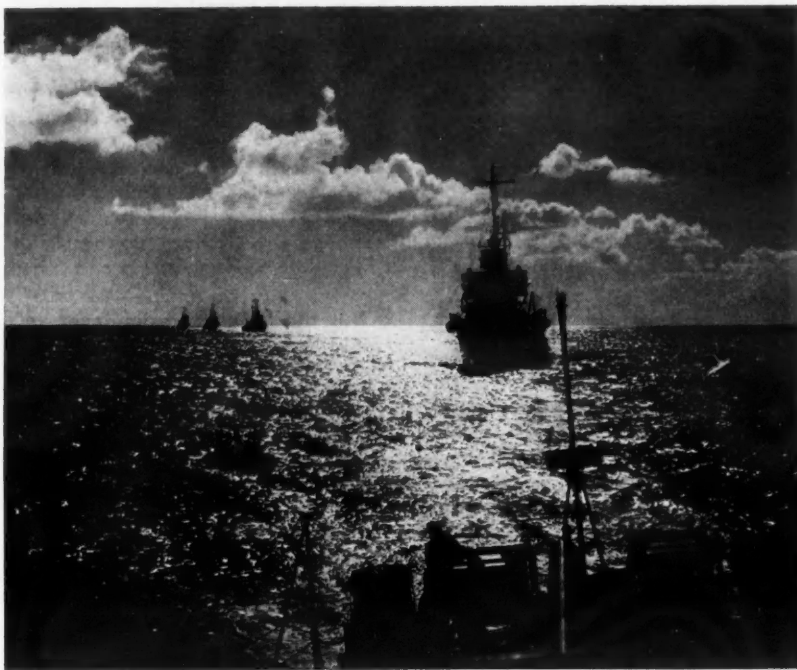
The battleship, of course, is the heavyweight of the firing line. It is a great, broad, massive fortress, weighing 33,000 tons or more, carrying from 1,000 to 1,500 men, and huge guns capable of pouring eight tons of explosives every 20 seconds into a target 18 miles away. Compared with other naval craft it is slow, but it is the only type of craft able to stand up under the fire of another battleship. Therefore it is the core of the battle line. There are probably not more than 60 battleships in the whole world today. The *North Carolina*, and *Washington*, our two newest battleships, are believed to be more powerful than the new British battleships, but whether they outrank Germany's great new battleship, the *von Tirpitz*, is not known.

The cruisers weigh less than a third as much as the battleships. They carry from 500 to 890 men and can attain speeds of 34½ miles per hour. The cruiser, as its name suggests, can travel great distances, and for that reason it serves as the eyes and ears of the fleet, ranging far and wide to find the enemy, to keep watch on him, or to attack him. Cruisers are second only to battleships in striking power. They are divided into two classes—light, and heavy, the difference being not in their weight but in their guns. Heavy cruisers carry eight-inch guns, light cruisers six-inch guns.

The destroyers are smaller and

speedier than cruisers, but they do not carry the cruisers' heavy guns and they cannot carry sufficient fuel for long trips. Hence they are used for work in narrow waters, for short and dangerous dashes at high speeds (some of them can travel nearly 50

and they are very good at this, since it is so difficult to spot them. There are ships to lay mines, others to sweep them up; there are hospital ships; big, fast oil tankers; large "tenders" to supply and repair the submarines. Around the bases are a



DESTROYERS are the fleet greyhounds of the sea. They track down and hunt submarines, and hover around battleships and convoys to guard them. They are Britain's greatest need in the Battle of the Atlantic.

miles an hour), and as a screen to protect the battleships from torpedo attacks.

## Fleet Formation

When the fleet is in formation, the battleships form the center of the line, except in battle, when they lie in the rear. Around them are clusters of destroyers. Far out in front, in the rear, and along the horizon, the light cruisers watch and listen. At an even greater distance, a special scouting fleet of heavy cruisers will be searching for dangers, flashing warnings back to the main fleet. And from 30 to 100 miles in the rear, protected by a few small craft, will be the huge aircraft carriers. They

variety of small craft—mosquito boats carrying torpedoes and machine guns, naval tugs, and so on.

In size our Navy is equaled only by that of Great Britain. Of the great battleships we have 17, and the British 17, to Japan's 10, Italy's six, and Germany's three. We have six big aircraft carriers, Britain seven, Japan four, Italy none, and Germany one. In cruisers we are not so well off. We have 37, the British 62, Japan 44, Italy 20, and Germany seven. We are also a little weak on destroyers. Today we have 159, the British about 221, Japan 135, Italy 120, and Germany 47. Our fleet of 105 submarines is large, but only 40 or 50 of them are modern, and we are far out-

rated very high. Our naval gunnery is believed to be matched only by the Germans, who have very few ships. American naval engineers have developed a "fire-control" mechanism, far in advance of any other nation's, for firing all a ship's guns on a single target and in a single salvo. U. S. naval planes are equipped with bomb sights more accurate than any other known to be in existence, although the Germans have a very good one also. Our Navy can operate from bases at a great distance from our coast—at Hawaii, Panama, Bermuda, and soon at Trinidad, Newfoundland, and perhaps Iceland, and stands an excellent chance of keeping a powerful enemy away from our shores.

Our battleships are more seaworthy and more ruggedly built than those of the Japanese—and most of them are better equipped. Our naval air arm is far in advance of that of any other navy, and contains many "big long-distance patrol bombers, or "flying boats." And finally, the United States Navy has developed something new. It is a small squadron made up of an aircraft carrier with a full load of planes, and several heavy cruisers. This is called a "carrier striking group," a naval unit of great speed and striking power, able to cruise for thousands of miles, to destroy commerce and fight almost anything but a full-dress battle fleet, and from this it could run away.

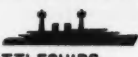

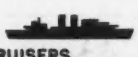

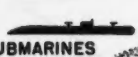
## The Disadvantages

Now for the disadvantages. The 12 battleships of our Pacific fleet are slower than Japan's 10 battleships, a fact which might help to reduce the odds against the Japanese. Another disadvantage will become clear after looking at a map of the world. We have a large Navy, but it has undertaken to protect a vast area of the earth's surface.

Today our ships are patrolling the North Atlantic as far east as Iceland; they are guarding our Atlantic coast, the entire Caribbean area from Florida to Trinidad and Panama. Our ships must guard the entire eastern Pacific north of Panama, and yet extend protection 6,000 miles west to the Philippines and 4,000 miles southwest to Samoa. President Roosevelt has hinted that the American Navy will guard American ships as far away as the Persian Gulf, if necessary.

Of course, it must be realized that our possible enemies have difficulties of their own. The German and Italian navies are virtually bottled up. Japan has long and dangerous trade routes to guard and a big army in China and Manchukuo to supply, all of which requires naval ships. American naval experts have no doubt that the Navy could defeat the Japanese navy or drive it into hiding in the event of war between the United States and Japan. Most of them feel the Japanese will not risk an open battle, and that a war in the Pacific would be one of blockade and counterblockade. But if we should be called upon to fight Japan, and wage war in the Atlantic at the same time, the task facing the Navy would be somewhat difficult.

This is why the United States is now going ahead with such speed in building a two-ocean navy.

TYPES OF NAVAL CRAFT	BUILT	BUILDING	NEW ORDERS	TOTAL
 BATTLESHIPS	17	10	5	32
 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	6	6	6	18
 CRUISERS	37	34	14	85
 DESTROYERS	159	101	58	318
 SUBMARINES	112	48	25	185

NEW SHIPS are rapidly being added to the United States Navy. The program of building envisages a fleet capable of giving battle to a major opponent in both the Atlantic and Pacific at the same time.

take no part in the fighting, except to release swarms of planes for scouting and bombing work. Aircraft carriers are poorly armored and mount no heavy guns, and must rely upon their planes and their high speed for protection.

This does not include all the ships in the fleet, of course. There are submarines which also act as scouts,

classed by others. Britain has 52, Japan 69, Italy 94, and Germany somewhere around 200.

So much for figures. They are important, but they do not tell the whole story. Our Navy has advantages and disadvantages which cannot be measured in figures. Here are some of the advantages:

The quality of the equipment is





THE ABOVE REGION may become the next important theater of war. Germany's need to replenish oil reserves may cause her to launch a drive for the oil fields of the Caucasus and Near East.

## The Struggle for Oil

(Concluded from page 1)

tained 170,000 square miles; was more than twice the size of Kansas.

Since 1939, the size of the Ukraine has increased as a result of the addition of parts of Poland and of Rumania. Its total area after these additions was 220,000 square miles. Its population was 40,000,000 persons, nearly a third as great as that of the United States.

### Ukraine's Production

The Ukraine has been called the "bread basket" of the Soviet Union. It might also be called the "sugar bowl," for it produces nearly a third of all the grain of the country, and accounts for almost one-fourth of its output of sugar beets.

The soil of the Ukraine is especially fertile for agricultural production. Running across the region is a wide belt of good black earth, comparable to that of central Texas. In addition to grain and sugar beets, the soil of the Ukraine is suited to the production of cotton. It is also responsible for one quarter of the country's livestock and 40 per cent of its eggs.

But agriculture is not the only contribution of the Ukraine. It is one of the most important industrial regions. For example, 60 per cent of the Soviet Union's coal comes from the Ukraine; 63 per cent of its iron ore; 47 per cent of its rolled metal; 70 per cent of its agricultural machinery; 35 per cent of the manganese; 72 per cent of the aluminum; and 20 per cent of the machine building.

The Nazis have succeeded in driving a deep wedge into the Ukraine. Russian forces have withdrawn across the Dnieper River but have not yet been vitally crippled as a fighting force. Last week, there were reports of counterattacks by the Soviet armies of the Ukraine, led by Marshal Semyon Timoshenko. Moreover, the besieged city of Odessa is still holding out; Kiev has not fallen. At least the Nazis have been temporarily halted after their early successes in the region.

Many of the industrial centers of the Ukraine are located east of the

Dnieper, and the Soviets still control these. There are important coal fields and centers of heavy industry beyond the river. The next military operations of the Nazis are likely to be aimed at crossing the Dnieper, seizing this vital area, and pushing on to the Caucasus.

(2) The Caucasus. The importance of this region lies in one product—oil. In the Caucasus alone—that strip of land lying between the Black Sea in the west and the Caspian Sea in the east, and bordering on Turkey and Iran in the south and the foothills of the Urals in the north—produces between 80 and 90

line with the Black Sea port of Batum.

It is estimated by geologists that the Soviet Union has the largest oil reserves of any country on earth, and that most of them are located in the Caucasus region and as yet unexplored.

Although there are other products of importance in the Caucasus—manganese ore of a very high grade, grains of all kinds—it is oil that gives this region its position of importance in the present international struggle.

One of the principal reasons for Germany's invasion of Russia was her need for oil, and no nearby region offered the prize to be found in the Caucasus. If Hitler could march through the Ukraine into the Caucasus and grab the oil wells and refineries there, his problems would be solved so far as oil is concerned and he could carry on a long war against the British.

The difficulties of seizing the Caucasus, however, are very great. Even if his armies subdue the entire Ukraine, it will not be easy for his armies to march across the Caucasus Mountains, which rise to more than 18,000 feet in spots.

### Importance of Iran

(3) Iran. This country offers another approach to the Caucasus, and it is because of its strategic location that the British and Russians got the jump on the Nazis and occupied that country. The Allies have gained a number of advantages as a result of their occupation of Iran. Among the more important are the following:

Britain and Russia have now tightened the blockade against Iran. They can now prevent the shipment of war materials which had been carried in German trucks from Iran to Hitler's forces.

They can organize their armies for the defense of the Caucasus if the Nazi forces should cross the

Russian troops out of the country.

Possession of Iran gives the Allies another distinct advantage. It opens a route by which American supplies can be sent to the Soviet Union. American war materials can be sent to the Persian Gulf and across Iran into Russia.

It would be impossible to overestimate the advantages which have come to Britain and Russia as a result of their occupation of Iran. They are now in an excellent position to prevent Hitler from seizing lands of great value, and they can organize their forces for an offensive against Hitler later on.

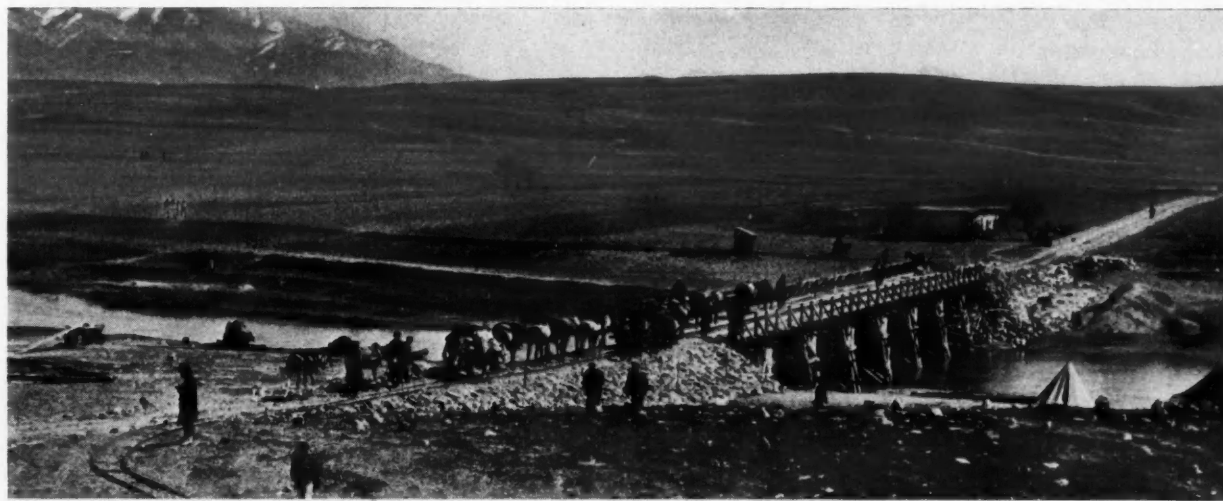
The occupation of Iran by British and Russian forces may have another important consequence. It may influence the position of Turkey. So long as Turkey's rear was exposed to a possible German attack—through Syria, Iraq, or Iran—the Turks were in a dangerous position. They had little chance of warding off a Nazi attack from their northern border. Now that Turkey's back door has been closed to Germany, the Russians and British hope that country will take a firmer stand in dealing with the Nazis.

The ultimate position of Turkey is of great importance in the whole Russian campaign. If Hitler's armies become bogged down along the extensive Russian front, they may seek to achieve their aims in Russia by means of a flanking attack through Turkey.

### Britain and Russia Act

The British and Russians are aware of such a possibility and for that reason they have been building their defenses in the Near East. They have been urging the Turks to withstand Nazi pressure. They have joined forces in Iran so that they can quickly move against the Germans if such an invasion across Turkey is attempted.

Whichever route Hitler chooses in his attempt to obtain the riches of



SCRAGGY SOIL, BARE MOUNTAINSIDES, AND DESERTS, broken by an occasional fertile river valley, are characteristic of the Near East. Above is an ancient caravan trail across the Iranian highlands.

per cent of the oil of the entire Soviet Union.

The Caucasus is slightly smaller than the state of California and contains 137,180 square miles of territory. It derives its name from the Caucasus Mountains, which cut across the region from the Black Sea to the Caspian.

### The Oil Industry

The oil industry of the Caucasus is located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, north and south of the city of Baku, where the largest refineries in the region are located. Baku is connected by a double pipe

Dnieper and threaten the region from the west. With Syria, Iraq, and now Iran firmly controlled by England, it will be exceedingly difficult for Germany to gain a foothold in the Near East and thus threaten India and the Suez Canal.

Britain is assured of sufficient oil supplies for her fleet in the Mediterranean and for her armies in Africa. With the supplies of Iran and Iraq readily available, the Germans cannot shut off her oil except by a military defeat. Nor can the Nazis obtain the oil of Iran (she ranks fourth among the world's producers) except by driving the British and

the Caucasus, he will encounter serious obstacles. If he moves from the west, he will have the formidable Caucasus Mountains to cross.

If Hitler should choose the other route of invasion, through Turkey or through the Near East, he would now find obstacles which did not exist a few weeks ago. The British have erected a barrier against him by taking control of Syria and Iraq and, with Russia, have extended the barrier across Iran. Only Turkey remains as an avenue of approach, and the British and Russians are working hard to close that door to the Caucasus.



**B**ICYCLE manufacturers have been told by the Office of Production Management to cut down on the variety of models which they are making. Instead of 40, the makers are to turn out only 10 different sizes and styles. During the World War period the number was reduced to three.

About the same time that the order was issued, Donald Nelson, who was advanced from his post as chief defense purchasing adviser to become executive director of a new Supply



BICYCLES are more popular as fuel shortages are threatened.

Priorities and Allocations Board, gave the reasons for standardization in all lines:

In the past we have devoted much of our energy and resources to the pleasant task of multiplying the varieties and assortments of things offered to the consuming public.

Competition for the favor of the public has largely taken the form of offering an endless number of fashions, styles, models, colors, shapes, and brands. That was right and proper; it symbolized the fact that our general standard of living was so high that those who could afford to buy at all had an infinite number of choices.

But in a time of emergency much of that kind of effort is waste. We cannot afford to use up time, material, and labor making two dozen varieties of one article if we can get along with three or four varieties.

If the workers and machines and managerial skill not used to make those extra, unneeded varieties are set free for other employment, we can increase both our production of defense goods and our production of goods for consumers.

### Army Leadership

Too often a general is thought of only as the man who plans the strategies of battle campaigns. He is pictured poring over maps, marking positions with



General Wavell

More than a strategist, however, he is a specialized type of executive. He must think of the welfare of his men, the transportation of troops and supplies, the employment of a variety of weapons, and a score of other problems.

To meet these situations, particularly in wartime, requires a leader of extraordinary talents. General Sir Archibald Wavell, who was commander of British forces in the Middle East until he was transferred to India, has given this summary of traits necessary in a general. He is quoted in the September *Infantry Journal*:

He must know how to get his men their rations and every other kind of store needed for war. He must have imagination to originate plans, practical sense, and energy to carry them through. He must be observant, untiring, shrewd, kindly and cruel; simple and crafty, a watchman and a robber, lavish and miserly; generous and

## News and Comment

stingy, rash and conservative. He should also, as a matter of course, know his tactics; for a disorderly mob is no more an army than a heap of building stone is a house.

### In Another Day

Time and again, the question has been raised, What interest has the United States in the affairs of European nations? By no means a new issue, it was considered by Daniel Webster, who died 90 years ago. His viewpoint was recalled and set forth in a recent issue of *The Saturday Review of Literature*:



Daniel Webster

What is it to us, it may be asked, upon what principles, or what pretenses, the European governments assert a right of interfering in the affairs of their neighbors? The thunder, it may be said, rolls at a distance. The wide Atlantic is between us and danger; and, however others may suffer, we shall remain safe.

I think it is a sufficient answer to this to say that we are one of the nations of the earth; that we have an interest, therefore, in the preservation of that system of national law and national intercourse which has heretofore subsisted so beneficially for all. Our system of government, it should also be remembered, is throughout founded on principles utterly hostile to the new code; and if we remain undisturbed by its operation, we shall owe our security either to our situation or our spirit. The enterprising character of the age, our own active, commercial spirit, the great increase which has taken place in the intercourse among civilized and commercial states, have necessarily connected us with other nations, and given us a high concern in the preservation of those salutary principles upon which that intercourse is founded.

### Straight Thinking?

The following comment comes from one of the most important and widely read newspapers in the United States:

In women's stockings cotton by the latest figures was less than 10 per cent. American women wore nine pairs of silk or silk mixture for every pair of

cotton hose. . . . How does the picture of nine-tenths of a nation in silk stockings square with the familiar picture of one-third of a nation ill-clad? If one-third of all American women are ill-clad, it should mean 22,000,000 ill-clad women. If only one American woman in 10 wears cotton stockings, it means only six or seven million women in cotton hosiery. It follows that 15,000,000 American women who wear silk stockings nevertheless belong to the underprivileged ill-clad one-third of the nation.

This statement contains an error in logic. Can you find it? In what respect is it an example of "false reasoning"? Answer this question for yourself. We will give our answer on this page next week.

### Mealtime Ignorance

Next to poverty, ignorance is easily the worst obstacle which prevents large numbers of people from obtaining a full measure of health and energy through their diets. An article in the August *Fortune* pictures the situation:

It is a paradox that the U. S., the world's richest country in foodstuffs, should have a seriously malnourished population. Crowds of husky, healthy-looking people do not make a well-nourished nation. The point: they may



YOU MAY EAT WELL and still be poorly nourished.

only be healthy-looking. We look better than we are, and many of us carry the so-called hidden hunger. For malnutrition doesn't necessarily mean under-eating. . . . In other words, malnutrition is poor eating. Take the southern pellagrin, who stuffs himself with sow-belly, hominy, and molasses, and sinks into lethargy; or an irritable, rotund

## Something to Think About

### U. S. Navy

1. How does the United States Navy compare with the other leading navies of the world?

2. What is the main function of the battleship? the cruiser? the destroyer?

3. What proportion of the world's battleships belong to England and the United States?

4. What are some of the principal advantages, other than size, enjoyed by our Navy? What are the main disadvantages?

5. The United States Navy is divided into how many fleets? What are they called?

### Ukraine, Caucasus, and Iran

1. Why may Hitler's armies intensify their campaign in the south during the coming months?

2. What is the principal contribution of the Ukraine to the Soviet Union?

3. Why is Hitler so anxious to obtain the Caucasus? Where is the Caucasus located?

4. Name the principal advantages which Russia and England enjoy as a result of their occupation of Iran.

5. Why is Turkey so important to Germany? to the British and Russians?

### Miscellaneous

1. Who is the United States chief of naval operations? What are his principal functions?

2. What is the principal product of Colombia?

3. Who are the Chetniks and what role are they playing in the war?

4. Who is chairman of the new Supplies Priorities and Allocations Board?

### Pronunciations

Baku—bah-koo'.

Batum—bah-toom'.

Bogotá—boe-goe-tah'.

Calí—kah'lee.

Caucasus—ko'ka-sus.

Fumimaro Konoye—foo-mee-mah'roe koe-noe'yeh.

Kronstadt—kron'staht—o as in go.

Vladivostok—vlah-di-voe-stok'.



ITALIAN YOUTH is given rigid training beginning at an early age.

businessman on a reducing diet; or an average American clerk, who breakfasts on a cup of coffee, lunches on a hamburger standing up, dines on steak and pie, and blames his jitters on the rush of the big city. Generally in our meals we get more or less enough of the body-building proteins, energy-giving carbohydrates (sugars, starches) and fats, some minerals; but we are nationally deficient in calcium (for making bones and teeth) and particularly in vitamins.

### Fascist Education

Few American school children realize how free are their lives, both in and out of school, as compared to those of children in the fascist state. This is clearly brought home in a pamphlet entitled *Education Under Dictatorships and in Democracies* recently issued by the U. S. Office of Education. The author describes the rigid organization and activities of youth groups to which all Italian boys and girls from six to 21 years of age are compelled to belong:

For the first two years, six to eight, boys and girls together are Children of the Wolf. Signor Mussolini said, "The way of fascist life begins with the dawn." . . . In every year of life . . . (from then to maturity) . . . the Saturday afternoons and the after-school hours of other days are used to give them a "color" of education that cannot be taken out of their adult mentalities.

Organized in squads, maniples, centuries, cohorts, and legions after the plan of the old Roman army, the boys, even while Children of the Wolf, drill almost daily. First they have little wooden guns, then larger weapons, and finally the arms of the militia.

### Lloyds of London

The most famous of all insurance organizations, as well as the oldest, is Lloyds of London, which had its beginnings in a coffee shop. Although the war has caused the organization to lose a great amount of business, it still has wide-flung interests. John Broderick, in a recent issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, sweeps away some common misconceptions concerning this insurance organization:

To begin with, Lloyds is not an insurance company. It is really a society, titled the Corporation of Lloyds. The body itself writes no insurance. The insurance underwriters are various individuals who are members of that society and who band together as syndicate groups to write policies.

A Lloyds policy is a strange document in that it often contains hundreds of signatures. Each underwriter is responsible for his share in the risk.

Contrary to popular conception, Lloyds will not "bet" on anything. Members of the society do, however, write almost all forms of insurance except life insurance as it is known as in America. They will, however, write insurance on an individual taking, say, a transoceanic plane trip.

It is estimated that there are around 1,800 individual members of Lloyds society.